CITIZEN INTELLIGENCE ARCHIVE

Senate Race File #008 — Iowa

Session 2 Update | August 2026

SESSION 2 UPDATE — DIRECT FEC SEARCH (NOT IN TRACKAIPAC DATABASE)

> **WHAT CHANGED SINCE SESSION 1:** Iowa isn't in TrackAIPAC's tracked-candidate list at all, so this required a direct FEC/ProPublica itemizer search rather than a tracker lookup. No AIPAC PAC contributions found for either candidate. Hinson's itemized PAC donors include ACA International, National Stone Sand & Gravel Association, H&R Block's BlockPAC — no pro-Israel organizations of any kind appear. Turek has been endorsed by J Street PAC (a pro-diplomacy pro-Israel group, distinct from AIPAC), but no dollar figure is attached to that endorsement, and no AIPAC money was found.

Iowa's Senate seat is open — Republican Joni Ernst is retiring after two terms. Trump won Iowa by 13 points in 2024. Both primaries were decided June 2, 2026: Hinson (R) and Turek (D) are the nominees.

ASHLEY HINSON (R)

U.S. Representative Iowa 2nd District 2021–present | Former TV news anchor | Age 42 | Marion, Iowa

Hinson is a former TV news anchor turned politician. She has Trump's endorsement and won the primary with 74% of the vote.

THE FACTS — VOTING RECORD

Healthcare — The Biggest Issue in This Race

Hinson voted FOR the Medicaid cuts in the One Big Beautiful Bill. KFF estimates roughly 110,000 more Iowans will become uninsured by 2034 as a result. She voted AGAINST extending enhanced ACA subsidies on January 8; over 120,000 Iowans saw premiums increase by an average of 95%. She accepted $17,000 from HMO PACs, $20,500 from health insurance PACs, and $22,500 from pharmaceutical manufacturer PACs since 2020, while now running ads fact-checkers have flagged as misleading about lowering healthcare costs.

Reproductive Rights

Supported the overturn of Roe v. Wade. Voted for Iowa's six-week abortion ban. Voted AGAINST bipartisan protections for birth control access, then pivoted to pushing birth control access legislation once the race became competitive.

War & Accountability

Voted AGAINST requiring congressional authorization for Trump to continue the war with Iran. In a private recording, she acknowledged the war could become a "political liability" and noted she had attended four Iowa soldiers' funerals since December.

THE FACTS — FOLLOW THE MONEY

SOURCE	NOTES	FLAG

Pro-Israel PAC money	No AIPAC or other pro-Israel PAC contributions found in itemized FEC records. Her documented PAC donors are entirely domestic industry groups: ACA International (debt collection), National Stone Sand & Gravel Association, H&R Block's BlockPAC, and similar.	**NO EVIDENCE FOUND — genuinely clean on this specific flag**
Health insurance & pharma PACs	$17K HMO PACs, $20.5K health insurance PACs, $22.5K pharma PACs since 2020.	■ **FLAGGED**
Senate Leadership Fund (GOP)	$29 million ad reservation for Iowa from Republican Senate super PAC.	■ **FLAGGED**
Trump Republican network	Trump endorsement brings national GOP donor infrastructure.	■ **FLAGGED**
Cash on hand Q1 2026	$6.5 million — significant fundraising advantage over Turek.	**NOTE**

AIPAC MONEY: **NO EVIDENCE FOUND** — a direct FEC search turned up no pro-Israel PAC contributions of any kind. This is not the same "PENDING" as Session 1 — it's an actual clean result from itemized records.

HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY / DARK MONEY: **FLAGGED** — funded by insurance and pharma PACs while voting against healthcare access for Iowans. $29M GOP super PAC.

> **ARCHITECT ANALYSIS — ASHLEY HINSON (updated):** The healthcare picture remains the sharpest story in this race and is unchanged. The AIPAC question is now closed clean — genuinely, not by default. Her money story is entirely domestic: health insurance, pharma, and GOP infrastructure. That's arguably a more damning picture for Iowans specifically than an Israel-lobby flag would have been, since it's the industry that profits directly from the coverage she voted to cut.

JOSH TUREK (D)

Iowa State Representative, 20th District 2023–present | Paralympic gold medalist wheelchair basketball | Age 47

Josh Turek is a state legislator who competes in wheelchair basketball — a Paralympic gold medalist. He represents the most conservative district in Iowa to send a Democrat to the state legislature.

THE FACTS — RECORD & POSITIONS

What He Is Running On

Protecting healthcare and reversing Medicaid cuts. Economic populism. Veterans' issues — backed by VoteVets, which spent nearly $10 million supporting him. Opposition to the Iran war and accountability for military spending.

Corporate PAC Pledge — A Real Complication

Turek has publicly pledged not to take corporate PAC money. However, Iowa Field Report — a nonpartisan outlet — found his own FEC filings show a contribution from the NEA Fund for Children and Public Education, which the FEC itself classifies as a "Corporation PAC – Qualified." This is a teachers' union PAC, not a traditional corporate donor in the way voters likely picture when they hear the term, but it technically falls under the FEC's own "corporate PAC" designation Turek pledged to avoid. Worth naming honestly rather than treating the pledge as airtight.

THE FACTS — FOLLOW THE MONEY

SOURCE	NOTES	FLAG
Pro-Israel PAC money	No AIPAC contribution found. J Street PAC — a pro-diplomacy, pro-Israel group distinct from AIPAC — has publicly endorsed Turek, but no dollar figure is attached to that endorsement in available records.	**NO EVIDENCE FOUND — genuinely clean on AIPAC specifically**
VoteVets (outside spending)	Nearly $10 million spent by VoteVets supporting Turek in the primary. Outside spending, not from his campaign directly.	■ **WATCH**
NEA Fund for Children and Public Education	Teachers' union PAC contribution — technically classified by the FEC as a "Corporation PAC," in tension with his no-corporate-PAC pledge.	■ **WATCH — pledge vs. record gap**
Chuck Schumer / DSCC	Backed by Senate Democratic leadership. National Democratic money will flow in.	■ **WATCH**
Cash on hand Q1 2026	~$757K — significantly less than Hinson's $6.5M.	**NOTE**

AIPAC MONEY: **NO EVIDENCE FOUND** — clean on this specific flag, confirmed via direct search rather than absence of tracking.

DARK MONEY: **WATCH** — $10M VoteVets outside spending is significant. His no-corporate-PAC pledge doesn't fully match his own FEC filings.

> **ARCHITECT ANALYSIS — JOSH TUREK (updated):** Clean on AIPAC specifically, same as Hinson. The more interesting money story here is the pledge-versus-record gap on corporate PACs — a small one in dollar terms, but exactly the kind of thing this archive exists to catch regardless of which party it involves. Naming it doesn't mean treating a teachers' union PAC as equivalent to a pharmaceutical company; it means being consistent about matching claims to filings.

STATUS: SESSION 2 COMPLETE. Both candidates confirmed clean on AIPAC via direct FEC search. Healthcare money remains the dominant flag for Hinson; the corporate-PAC pledge gap is a new, smaller flag for Turek. Rated Likely Republican but watch for movement if healthcare remains the top issue.

CHANGELOG (Session 2, August 2026):
— Hinson AIPAC status: PENDING → NO EVIDENCE FOUND (confirmed via direct FEC/ProPublica itemizer search, not tracker absence)

— Turek AIPAC status: PENDING → NO EVIDENCE FOUND (J Street PAC endorsement noted, no dollar figure, distinct from AIPAC)
— Added new flag: Turek's no-corporate-PAC pledge vs. NEA Fund for Children and Public Education contribution (FEC-classified "Corporation PAC")
— Confirmed Iowa is not tracked in TrackAIPAC's candidate database, requiring the direct-search approach used here

"I don't tell you how to vote. I give you the X-ray. You decide."

— Uma | PixelMagic / MindTraveler | People Over Party